

H-204258

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add Claims 31 and 32 and amend Claim 1, 2, 14, and 24 as follows, illustrated in "clean" format:

1. (Amended) An exhaust system converter, comprising:  
a catalyst;  
a first endplate positioned adjacent to a first end portion of said catalyst, said first endplate forming a first end of said converter and comprising a first endplate support mechanism extending perpendicularly therefrom toward said catalyst;  
a mat support substantially covering said catalyst and at least a portion of said first endplate support mechanism, wherein said first endplate support mechanism is disposed between said mat support and said catalyst; and  
a shell having a diameter greater than that of said first endplate, wherein said shell is disposed around said catalyst and said mat support, and is disposed around and in intimate contact with at least a portion of said first endplate.
2. (Amended) The exhaust system converter of claim 1, wherein said first endplate support mechanism is positioned around said first end portion of said catalyst.
14. (Amended) The exhaust system converter of claim 1, said shell extends about halfway across said periphery.

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24. (Amended) An exhaust system converter, comprising:
- a catalyst;
  - a first endplate, positioned adjacent to a first end portion of said catalyst, said first endplate forming a first end of said converter and comprising a first endplate support mechanism extending perpendicularly therefrom;
  - a second endplate, positioned adjacent to a second end portion of said catalyst, said second endplate forming a second end of said converter and comprising a second endplate support mechanism extending perpendicularly therefrom toward said catalyst;
  - a mat support substantially covering said catalyst, said mat support extending beyond a face of the catalyst over at least a portion of said first endplate support mechanism, wherein said first endplate support mechanism is disposed between said mat support and said catalyst; and
  - a shell disposed around said catalyst and said mat support, and is disposed around and in intimate contact with at least a portion of said first endplate and said second end plate.
31. (New) The exhaust system converter of Claim 1, wherein said first endplate is flat.
32. (New) The exhaust system converter of Claim 24, wherein said first endplate and said second endplate are flat.